

# To be a Bukovinian

## BUKOLINK

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,Dear Friends

We have passed the New Year holidays and Yom Kippur which purifies us, and we are at the beginning of a New Year that will bring only good things to fruition, at least that is what we are praying for. We are planning cultural activities for the Organization, and are working diligently to bring them to completion throughout the year.

The first one is the organization's annual rally commemorating seventy-five years since the final deportation of Jews from Bukovina to Transnistria. This is a major social and historical event including meetings with old friends and acquaintances, and building connections with the future generations, which have become an integral part of our community.

This year the commemoration rally was held under an important theme: "The Rebirth of the Jews of Bukovina". In addition, there was a memorial ceremony to mark 75 years since the forced deportations of all Jewish survivors from Bukovina to Transnistria began. As in previous years, the event was held in the Tel Aviv Museum on Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The ceremony opened with a memorial for the Holocaust victims from within our community; then greetings and important speeches were made and medals awarded to "Notable Bukovina Jews"; three dear friends whose invaluable leadership has helped pass on our heritage and culture.

Additional portions of the program included; a combined live and film performance of the songs of world famous tenor, Joseph Schmidt, who perished in the Holocaust in 1942; a humorous program in Yiddish by actor Yaakov Bodo; and finally, Shlomit Aharon and her band performed songs in Yiddish and Hebrew

I wish everyone a happy year and only good things written in the book of life

Yochanan

## The Pilot Project to Locate, Document, Restore, and Preserve Jewish Heritage Sites in Bucovina

By Sarah Brander-Sweiry

Friends, I would like to share my impressions of an emotional journey that Baruch Eylon, Nathan Kinsbruner and I took to the cemeteries and mass graves in the northern Bukovina province of Storozhynetz in July 2016

During the "Journey on the Paths of the Holocaust", made to Bukovina, Transnistria in the summer of 2015, the sad state of the Jewish cemeteries in the small towns of northern Bukovina was revealed to me. I made a promise to myself to explore the possibilities as to how to record and preserve, as much as possible, the only vestiges that attest to the Jewish life and communities that once existed in Bukovina; and that are no more

In consultation with Yochanan Ron Singer and Baruch Eylon, we created a survey for 12 sites including - cemeteries, monuments and mass graves, and to locate, document and scan physical evidence and condition of each one

Not all Jews had graves, since many who were killed were left on the side of the road coming to Transnistria. For future generations, I see this mission as a mitzvah; a duty for the second generation to create permanent memorials for their murdered family members, who were not buried according to Jewish law

The Northern Bukovina trip was preceded by many meetings which were held to gather information from various sources about people, places and events

### The objectives of the pilot program

A questionnaire was developed with a survey of about 100 questions on the physical condition of the cemeteries, mass graves and monuments

\*Select 10 towns in which to carry out the survey.

\* Coordinate meetings with mayors of the towns; (Courtesy of Yochanan).

Collect and fill in data in the database and on the website: <http://www.eylonconsulting.com/bukovina> \*

The website, (created by Baruch Eylon) is available to the public in general, and in particular is at the disposal of our organization's members

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Baruch, Nathan and I took a flight to Lvov in the Ukraine from Israel, and then drove the four hours to Czernowitz that very night

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The next morning, we drove on roads which weren't really roads to Storozhynetz, on the way to Halibuka. We saw fields painted yellow with sunflowers and electricity poles used mostly as storks' nests. On the roads, carts carried Ukrainian farmers to the fields. It felt as if time had stood still and the sights were probably similar to those that were there before World War II

#### Halibuka

We met the representatives of the town in the Jewish cemetery which had become the backyard of the farmer who lives next door. He opened the locked gate for us. Between the fruit trees we found about thirty gravestones, some of which are standing and some not. The crumbling tombstones make it difficult to read the inscriptions. We took photographs, Baruch filled out the survey questionnaire and we continued on to the town's Council where we met with the Mayor who received us warmly and promised to cooperate fully if we decide to install signs leading to the old cemetery

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### - Bodinetz

We were received in Bodinetz by the Secretary of the village and we visited the mass gravesite on the side of the road

#### -Chodai

In Chodai, we entered the backyard of a school, (which was a police station and prison during the war), where a monument to the memory of the 634 Jews killed by Romanian gendarmes and locals was erected. The Jewish cemetery is located on a hill, (in front of the Christian cemetery of the village), and access to it is difficult and dangerous. When we met with the head of the village and told him about the sad state of the cemetery and crumbling gravestones which is causing them to fall; he promised to

cooperate in their rehabilitation, if we provide the resources since they are .so desperately poor

- Berhomet

The cemetery was destroyed in 1964 by the Soviets who built a sugar factory in its place. The cemetery was replaced with a small pavilion with two .”symbolic graves built by the organization “Tents of the Righteous

- Sadigura

In sadigura they are renovating the Rabbi's house / palace and partial synagogue (similar in appearance to the City Hall in Stockholm). But where will all the worshipers come from? After all, there are not even enough Jews for a minyan in this area... There is also a Jewish cemetery in Sadigura which is locked behind an elegant gate; but the lush vegetation prevents access to .the tombstones hidden underneath it...this too is to be cleared out

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Cherish -

We arrived at a small pastoral village surrounded by wooded hills, including a stream and a pond. In this village, there were about one hundred Jews. We met an old woman who told us how the Jews were rounded up gathered on the outskirts of the forest behind the village church and the gendarmes ordered them to dig their own graves and began to shoot them - the elderly, women and children. We tried to track down the location of the valley of death; we followed their instructions, but could not locate the exact spot. It is important to build a monument there. I will go back there; the voice of ....our brothers cries out to me from beyond

- Davideni

The birthplace of my late mother: Clara Tipper-Brander. A small village where a hundred Jews live today and the birthplace of the famed tenor Joseph Schmidt; one of the greatest the world has ever known, who was killed during the Holocaust in 1942. All of the Jews of the village were expelled and sent to Transnistria. We met one old woman who remembered .several of the Jewish families who lived in Davideni up until the expulsion

- Banila

Where 686 Jews lived before the war. Banila was a center for the Jews of the surrounding villages. There were three synagogues, a yeshiva and a cemetery. Last year, I went there and tried to find the cemetery grave of my

mother's sister, Shulamit, who died in the prime of her life on the eve of her wedding in 1933. We had found the cemetery but thick vegetation prevented us from going inside. This time when we got there, we found to our surprise, that the cemetery had been cleared out, (perhaps in our honor), and after a brief search the gravestone of my Aunt Shulamit was found. I laid a flower and a stone on her grave; what an emotional experience that was

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Storozhynetz-

We were met by the deputy mayor who told us that the Jewish cemetery was handled by the municipality and that the neighbors take care to clear the vegetation. We asked what was happening with untreated areas and we .not really given a clear answer

### - Stare Zadobe

There the head of the village showed us the Jewish cemetery which was surrounded by barbed wire. As we entered, to our surprise, we saw a young man raking weeds with a pitchfork; next to him a goat "helping" to graze the weeds. It turns out that this system works ... the young man was a criminal ...doing his time with a community service to clean the cemetery

!It certainly was a most unusual spectacle! May this idea continue to grow



Left to right: Chairman of the Heritage Committee- Baruch Eylon, the village mayor, Sarah Sweiry- Pilot program organizer and Nathan Kinsbruner.

## Stanesti

The Secretary of the village took us to the Old Jewish cemetery on the outskirts of town. The cemetery is completely overgrown with weeds and thick vegetation covers the tombstones which prevents any access. We got as close as we could and photographed the area. In July 1941, approximately 100 Jews were massacred in a pogrom and buried in a mass grave. Survivors were sent to Transnistria on foot. After a flood in the 1960's, the bones were transferred to a Jewish gravesite with a small sign in the Christian cemetery.

## Draginetz

One hundred and twenty out of more than two hundred Jews living in Draginetz were murdered by Romanian and Ukrainian locals in early July 1941. The remaining Jews who survived the massacre were deported by foot on the death march to Transnistria. A monument has been erected where the terrible massacre took place.

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### - Kisilev

We were greeted by the village mayor and his assistant, Vasilina. They took us to the monument on the mass grave which was built by the private initiative of Ms. Elti Rudel, a Canadian researcher whose family perished in the Kisilev pogrom. In July 1941, 150 Jews from Borivsti and Kisilev were rounded up and murdered in cold blood by the local residents.

Our trip was over, ended, but not completed. We returned loaded with material and experiences. All information, including pictures, has been inserted onto the Heritage Sites website by Baruch Eylon. We have assembled a list of recommendations: signage, and conservation methods, so that all of these sites will be accessible to benefit our future generations.

We will begin by mobilizing resources and people to implement the recommendations to rehabilitate the sites above.

**Whoever does not respect his past; his present is uncertain, and his “future... unclear**

**?And what can you do**

The entire project is voluntary! Anyone can volunteer and help. The most important thing, and easy to do, is to continue to carry out surveys on theHeritage sites. If you are planning a trip or a roots trip to Bukovina / Transnistria / Moldova deportation route, contact me or Baruch Eylon (Baruch@eylonconsulting.com) or 'The World Organization of Bukovina Jews' .and they will assist you

We will give you information we have about the places you may be visiting and the Smartphone APP to carry out surveys and information, (details, pictures, GPS data, etc.).We will be happy to add your articles and pictures !to the Heritage site about the places you have visited- if you're interested

## One of Our Own": The Artist: Shlomo Schwartz"

Amidst the rubble of the ghetto, six year old Shlomo walked around; hungry, barefoot and thin. Only his eyes were burning and constantly look for pieces of burnt wood, coal, iron wire from barbed wire fences and bent rusty nails extracted from discarded wooden boards. With the coal he drew on stones; he straightened wires with stones and bent them to make needles and polished the nails to remove rust and straighten them. Now he had 'products that could be sold in the local market. With five marks that he was often able to collect, he rushed to buy a cup of soup and bring it to his



father who worked in forced labor.

When his father asked if he had eaten; he immediately answered "yes, of course".

Schwartz is a professional painter, who survived the Holocaust; thanks to ingenuity and miracles, and due to his optimistic nature and his dreams he had drawn on his plans for the future, when he was freed. He drew on any

flat stone that came his way. Although he knew that if he were caught it might have cost him his life; his desire to draw burned in his bones. In the drawings of his dreams he built himself a car and on the German tanks he .added Stars of David

For many years, Schwartz worked and exhibited in Israel, the United States and Canada. Topics of his paintings included the historic houses of Tel Aviv and its bohemian cafes. One of the exhibitions was called, "White Nights: Tel Aviv - Jaffa", which was exhibited at the "Alternative" gallery in Jaffa.

The exhibition included impressive oil paintings in cheerful colors and .unique style, with Images of Tel Aviv and Jaffa and its “eternal” cafés

Upon immigrating to Israel, Shlomo worked at drawing maps. He worked in the war room and as a cartographer during the Sinai War in 1956, the Six-Day War in 1967, and the Yom Kippur War in 1973. While working, he completed his studies at the Avni Institute, where he studied with the artist, Avni, himself. He became a member of the Artists Association, received awards and held exhibitions all over the world. Schwartz's paintings appear at Yad Vashem, at museums in New York and currently negotiations are underway with the Immigration Museum in Atlit, which wants to exhibit his paintings describing the life of Jews in camps in Cyprus during World War II .on a permanent basis

All artwork which adorns the World Organization of Bukovina Jews Internet site, and the title page of) (.BUKOLINK, are the fruit of Shlomo Schwartz's brush - the Editor

## Recipe Corner from the Bukovinian Kitchen

„M'lai” - a hot and comforting cake for cold winter days”

by Helen Livnat



### :Ingredients

eggs 4

Eshel or 2 Eshel and 1 sour cream (or yogurt) 3

kg 5% or 9% white cheese (or sour cream) 1/2

gramsmelted butter 175

teaspoon salt 1/4

tablespoons sugar 4-6

cup cornmeal (not instant) 1



cup self-rising flour 1

sachet of baking powder 1/2

sachets vanilla sugar 2

### :Preparation

Whisk the whole eggs with the sugar; then fold in the Eshel and melted  
.butter

.Then,add all of the remaining ingredients

.Pour the mixture into a buttered or oiled (not olive oil) Pyrex baking dish

.Heat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius

.Place a pan of hot water in the rack under the baking dish in the oven

.Bake, until light golden brown in color (see photo)